

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A mold assembly comprising:

a mold base;

a mold frame slidably received on said mold base, said mold base and said mold frame defining a mold cavity;

a plurality of conical, helical, wire springs having a given spring rate attached to a planar support structure, oriented around said mold base, said springs disposed between said support structure and said mold frame, said springs being able to collapse under force to an overall height equal to the diameter of the wire comprising said springs; [[and]]

a support structure and a platform having a specific height disposed between said plurality of springs, said mold frame being slidably received on said platform, said mold frame having an overall height less than said height of said support structure and platform, said mold frame being able to be lowered to a position wherein said height of said mold frame is below the height of said support structure and platform; and

a mold cover engaging said mold frame, said mold cover closing said mold cavity, said mold cavity having a variable volume due to said mold frame sliding with respect to said mold base.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The mold assembly according to Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein said plurality of springs are disposed between said support structure and said mold frame.

5. (currently amended) The mold assembly according to Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein said platform defines a first height and said mold frame defines a second height, said first height being greater than said second height such that a sliding movement of said mold frame with respect to said platform ejects a molded article.

6. (original) The mold assembly according to Claim 5 wherein said plurality of springs are conical springs.

7-11. (cancelled)

[[7]]12. (currently amended) A mold assembly comprising:

a mold base, said mold base consisting of a planar support structure and a platform attached thereto, said mold frame being slidably received on said platform;

a mold frame slidably received on said platform of said mold base, said mold base and said mold frame defining a mold cavity said mold frame being slidably received on said platform;

a plurality of conical, helical, wire springs having a given spring rate attached to said support structure, oriented around said platform, said springs disposed between said support structure and said mold frame, said springs being able to collapse under force to an overall height equal to the diameter of the wire comprising said springs; and

a mold cover engaging a top side of said mold frame, said mold cover closing said mold cavity, said mold cavity having a variable volume due to said mold frame sliding with respect to said mold base,

wherein said platform defines a first height and said mold frame defines a second height, said first height being greater than said second height such that a sliding movement of said mold frame downward with respect to said platform provides enough clearance to eject a molded article.